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Mississippi WMU celebrates missions

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The 2001 Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Annual Missions Celebration was held January 26-27 at Country Woods Church, Byram. The theme was "More Than You Can Imagine," based on Ephesians 3:20-21.

Al and Beth Bailey, missionaries to middle America, asked attendees at the January 26 afternoon session to remember missionaries in prayer.

"Prayer is the basis and foundation of any true ministry," Al Bailey said.

Wanda Lee, executive director/treasurer of the WMU auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Birmingham, described in the January 26 afternoon session how God moves above the ordinary by sharing her experiences during a recent medical mission trip to the war-torn country of Bosnia.

She also commended Mississippi Baptists for their dedication to reaching the world for Christ.

"Mississippi is known for its mission partnerships," she said.

Matt and Shea Williams, SBC representatives to Southeast Asia and Oceania, told attendees at the January 26 evening session of miraculous advances in their area of the world, with Matt Williams observing, "God is able."

David Michel, associate executive director for missions extension at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, delivered the closing message at the January 26 evening session.

Utilizing Jesus' parable of the ten minas in Luke 19:11-26, Michel told the crowd, "It challenges us to envision more than we can imagine; along with the privilege comes a terrible accountability."

Retired missionary Major McDaniel of Clinton served as the worship leader for the January 26 afternoon session, and a special ensemble of retired missionaries provided special music for the session.

Jim Farrish, minister of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) president, is joined on the platform by her husband, Charles Davis (right), associational missions director for Pike County, and Rebecca Williams (left) of Gautier, outgoing Church, Natchez. leader for the January 26 Mississippi WMU president. (Photo by Tony Martin)

evening session, and the church's Sanctuary Choir provided special music for the session.

Lisa Leavell, a member of First Church, Jackson, led in music worship during the January 27 sessions.

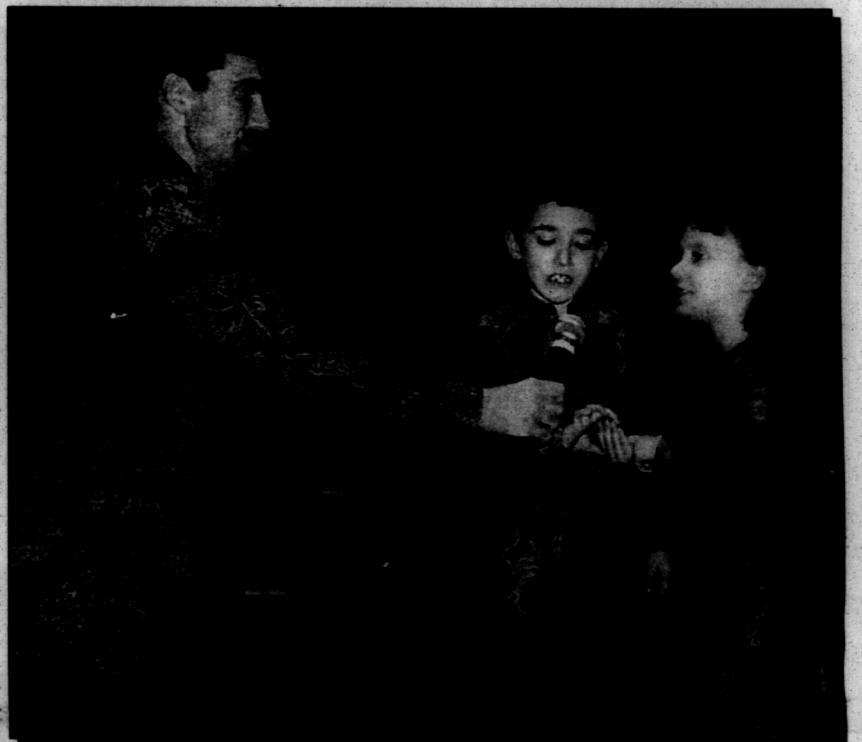
One particular highlight of worship was when Kimandria Futral, wife of Country Woods pastor Rob Futral, was joined by her children and several other children, youth, and adults in singing "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations."

R.T. and Fran Buckley, SBC representatives to Central and Southern Asia, shared some of their experiences in serving in their capacity with Southern Baptists.

"When God begins moving among a people group, it is impossible for man to stop that movement," he pointed out.

"When you see churches built in areas that were once restricted, you realize that the restrictions of man aren't worth a hill of beans alongside the power of God," he said.

Rebecca Williams, Mississippi WMU president, presided over the business ses-



CHILD'S PLAY — Matt Williams (left), Southern Baptist Convention representative to Southeast Asia and Oceania, holds the microphone while his children Drew (center) and Melody perform a folk song in one of the languages of the area of the world in which they serve, while mom Shea watches off camera. The Williams were attending the January 26-27 annual missions celebration of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union at Country Woods Church, Byram. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

sion during which executive board officers were elected. New officers include Betty W. Davis, McComb, president; and Vivian Taylor, Clara, secretary. Eight other new officers were also elected.

The final session was led by native Mississippian Larry Cox, vice president for public relations and development at the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Cox shared a moving testimony of how he acknowledged his personal call to missions at Camp Garaywa, then shared the vision of reaching unreached people groups.

"A day will come when all people will stand before God," he stated.

In his closing challenge, Cox said, "Are you praying daily that the gospel will come to an unreached people group?"

"Parents and grandparents, are you willing to release your children to the call of Christ to these groups?"

The 2002 Mississippi WMU Annual Missions Celebration will be held Feb. 1-2, 2002, at First Church, Natchez.



CALL TO ORDER — Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) president Rebecca Williams of Gautier convenes the opening session of the WMU annual missions celebration January 26 at Country Woods Church, Byram. The 2000 celebration was the final event of her five-year presidency; she will be succeeded by Betty Davis of McComb. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

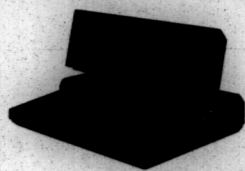
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The American mirror

Some Super Bowl, huh? No, I'm not talking about the football game. After all, the game was only a minor, inconsequential part of The Big Show.

I'm talking about The Big Show itself. The impressive assemblage of convict/athletes and deadbeat dads, all excused because of their athletic prowess. The self-absorbed talking sports heads. The inscrutable \$2.3 million commercials. The *nouveau riche* in the fancy sky boxes with trophy wives (or "companions") on their arms. The multi-colored, shirtless, raving fanatics in the cheap seats.

Yes, I'm talking about the mirror reflection of American culture that is the Super Bowl. Shouldn't it make us all walk a little taller to know that more than a billion people around the world are tuned in to this perverse snapshot of life in this country?

Doesn't it make one burst with national pride to hear those overpaid adolescents — role models for our youngsters — uttering senseless vulgarities as they race on to the field for the start of the game?

Congregations that capitulated by throwing Super Bowl parties instead of worshipping God last Sunday night received their due: their churches were filled with profanity.

Everyone who can read a newspaper or sit in front of a television screen now understands that even a man who allegedly stood by as two men were murdered can dodge trial and be declared Super Bowl MVP, all in the span of 12 short months.

Having the ability to play professional sports with a modicum of talent sure makes up for other shortcomings, like a palpable sociopathic personality, doesn't it?

How about teen idol Britney Spears, in painted-on pants, singing Aerosmith's "Walk This Way" with a cadaverous Steve Tyler during the flashy/frantic, over-the-top halftime show?

The lead sponsor of this exciting annual event — the corporation that bought the most multi-million-dollar commercial slots for the broadcast — was of course an alcoholic beverage company, once again vindicating for our young people the mainstream wholesomeness of excessive beer consumption.

This Super Bowl had it all — sex, drugs (yes, alcohol is a drug), and rock-and-roll. What more could the average American desire on a cold January weekend at the start of a new millennium?

It isn't just sports, however. We flock to art exhibitions (term used loosely) to view a crucifix submerged in the artist's urine or a likeness of Mary, the mother of Jesus, covered in elephant dung.

We sit hour after mesmerizing hour in front of television screens, absorbing coarse behavior, scatological humor, and *double entendres* about body parts and sexual habits.

It's certainly no wonder the rest of the world has no respect for the United States. How could they? We have become a country of flabby, aimless pagans who like nothing more than to be amused for a little while by the lowest possible forms of entertainment.

The Romans, too, are remembered for their extravagant indulgences in the last



years of the great empire. Like Americans today, latter-day Romans were the coarse and unsophisticated inhabitants of the most educated and powerful nation in the world.

The Romans comported themselves in this manner every day for hundreds of years, until finally there was nothing left of their empire. The Barbarians, finding no one faintly interested in stopping them, simply walked across unguarded borders and into the Roman heartland.

It doesn't have to be that way. Change starts with the power of one — one person humbling himself and praying for delivery.

One person standing up for what is right and resisting the depravity all around him/her. One person striving to live every day of life, every second of life, in honor of Jesus Christ. That's the power of one.

God, please send revival — and let it begin in me.

GUEST OPINION:

Make it 'our flag'

By Jimmy Porter, executive director
Mississippi Baptist
Christian Action Commission

faith, does this issue concern me? Yes, it does!

Because I understand and affirm the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of the believer, I am not going to tell you how to vote. In addition, messengers to the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention — the people who have the final say in such matters — have not made known their will for the convention on this issue.

However, I am going to suggest some passages of Scripture and a few principles over which to ponder and pray as you decide your vote.

The Apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 8 speaks to a very controversial issue, the eating of meat that had been sacrificed to idols.

To many of the Corinthian Christians, it mattered not

where the meat had been — a steak was a steak. They knew it had been on the altar of a pagan god but that in itself did not disqualify it from adorning their tables at the evening meal.

To other Christians it symbolized the worship of a false deity and therefore created for them a very uncomfortable position. They were offended by the very thought of eating this tainted meat.

Paul knew there was nothing wrong with the meat and that he had a right to eat it, but he also realized that if he exercised his right it had the potential to rupture the relationship between the Corinthian Christians and also hinder the Kingdom of God.

He concluded he would not eat the meat if it offended his brother in Christ. He did not

want the eating of meat offered to idols to become a stumbling block and a hindrance to the presentation of the Gospel of Christ.

No doubt there are similarities between the eating of meat in 1 Cor. 8 and the flying of the current state flag. One important similarity is that there are times, no matter how difficult or uncomfortable, when we must try to see things through the eyes of others.

Paul also tells us in 2 Cor. 5 that we are ministers of reconciliation because we have been reconciled in Christ. Therefore, we do have a mandate to possess "the mind of Christ" and to act accordingly.

The eyes of the world will be watching to see how we conduct ourselves, but even more importantly, the eyes of God will be upon us.

For me it must not be "what I want" nor "what I wish," but "what he wills." The one question that should burn in the hearts and mind of every Christian is "What would Jesus do in this situation?"

My prayer for all of us is that we will conduct ourselves in a Christlike manner, and when a flag is finally selected it will be "our flag" and not "my flag" or "your flag."

Oppressed Ambon Christians cry for peace

A M B O N CITY, Indonesia (BP) — The mournful horn echoes in the still air at 4 a.m. The call to prayer resounds off bullet-pocked walls and empty buildings. The Christian remnant in this Indonesian village awakens to cry out to God for peace.

The Christian call to prayer has been sounding every night since the conflict between Muslims and Christians erupted in Indonesia's Maluku Islands in January 1999. More than 4,000 people have

been killed and as many as 500,000 people displaced in this religious and political war.

Jim Brown, the human needs consultant for the International Mission Board, recently traveled to the Maluku Islands.

While there, his team tried to assess how Southern Baptists can help refugees — and gather evidence that the fighting is being fueled by an outside group.

"Our ambassador said the only way the international community would do anything would be if they were able to prove outside influence with this jihad war," he said.

A breakthrough for Christians came in late December when Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid



TERROR AND GRIEF — Women and children flee Sept. 26 from Hative Besar, targets of yet another attack on Christians by Muslim forces in the Maluku Islands of Indonesia. Thousands of villagers, mostly Christians but also Muslims, have been displaced by a cycle of attacks and retaliation in the region. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

acknowledged the influence of Islamic extremists and condemned the fighting.

"There is an effort by Islamic extremists to convert Christians to Islam in the Malukus," Wahid said during a speech at a mosque in Jakarta. "This is not right."

The Laskar Jihad paramilitary group has taken most of the responsibility for inciting the violence. They maintain a website designed to recruit Islamic extremists who are willing to force Muslim villages in the Malukus to attack Christians.

In areas where Christians and Muslims have peacefully lived side by side for decades, jihad warriors demand Muslim villages join in the fight or risk being attacked.

"This jihad is setting friends against friends and neighbors against neighbors," Brown said. "Their whole philosophy is to eradicate Christians from Indonesia — to kill them all or get them to convert."

More than 200 Christians on the island of Kasui have been held captive in a mosque since Dec. 6. Military personnel and other Christians have been unable to win their release.

Prisoners in the mosque who do convert have been forced to participate in the Islamic washing, adopt a Muslim name, and wear Muslim clothing. The men, and some women, then are circumcised.

The Indonesian military is present on the island of Ambon, and humanitarian groups like Mercy Corps and Doctors Without Borders are providing water and food for both Christians and Muslims.

The International Mission Board is partnering with other Great Commission Christians to begin construction of temporary housing for the thousands of refugees.

"I was real encouraged with the church community in Ambon and how they were tackling this problem of refugees," Brown said. "They accepted the refugees as if they were part of their own family."

The temporary housing will be constructed on Ceram Island, where 11,000 people have taken refuge. A team of volunteers from California will build barracks during the day and show the "Jesus" film in the evenings.

"Some churches won't touch this project because the risk is too high," said Chris Cole, the team leader, "but we go because the love of Christ compels us."

The International Mission Board will underwrite the costs for the barracks using money from its general relief fund.

The board also will use Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund resources to meet critical food needs and provide agricultural assistance.

Baptists are combining efforts to assist in every possible circumstance.

Brown compares the religious cleansing in the Malukus to the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

"In Kosovo, there was no outside influence pushing Serbian leaders to do this [cleansing]," Brown said, "and [in the Malukus] the U.S.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

Record

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Ask the hard questions

AMBON CITY, Indonesia (BP) — Thousands of Christians in Indonesia are begging for political intervention to stop the religious cleansing they are suffering at the hands of Muslim extremists. Christians worldwide can help by encouraging media and government attention to the plight of innocent civilians who are being killed or forced to convert to Islam. Advocates for the beleaguered Christians have listed several questions Christians can use as they petition lawmakers, media agencies, and other political groups:

- Why are the U.S. government and others in the international community not doing more about the ongoing fighting that has resulted in bloodshed, maiming and destruction during the past two years?
- What has happened to the many ferries that have disappeared while trying to deliver Christian refugees fleeing from islands in the Malukus?
- Why are 90% of the refugees Christian?
- What is the ultimate goal of the Laskar Jihad, which has acted as a catalyst for the fighting since the beginning of the conflict?
- Why are the more isolated islands of the Malukus, such as Halmahera, Ternate, Tidore, and Buru, now isolated? Is it because Christians have been forced to flee as jihad fighters invaded the islands?
- What actions has the Indonesian military taken in these remote areas?
- Why are there not neutral peacekeeping observers throughout the islands?

Looking back

10 years ago

Floy Jacob, the second-oldest living missionary currently on the retiree rolls of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board, passes the century mark when she celebrates her 100th birthday January 18 in West Point. She was born in 1891 in Franklin, Ky.

20 years ago

Baptist Sunday School Board trustees push a Southern Baptist television network and telecommunications system one step closer to reality in their semiannual meeting and applaud board president Grady Cothen's commitment to supporting local churches through communications efforts.

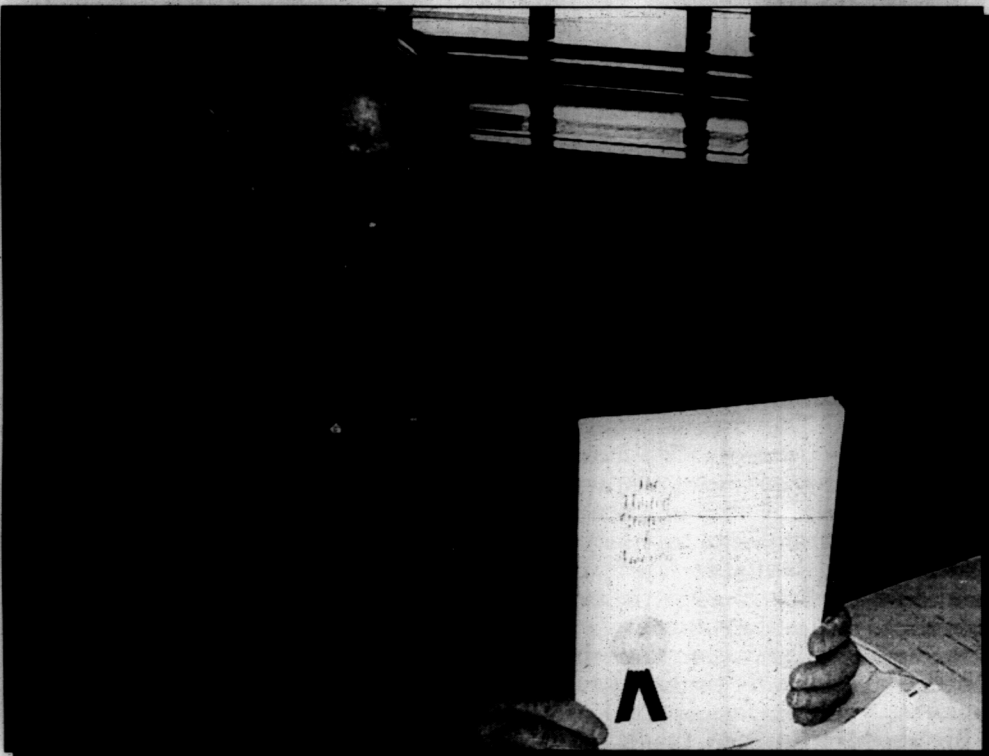
50 years ago

Miss Mildred Matthews, writing from Havana, Cuba, reports, "All of the Baptist churches of Havana Province held an evangelistic service in Central Park here in Havana. It has been estimated that two thousand people were present and their attention was perfect."

Senator wins fight for Bible system patent

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

"I've been in church all my life," thought Delma Furniss, Mississippi state senator from Rena Lara, "and I've watched folks have trouble finding Bible references. Why couldn't different versions of the Bible have page numbers that were universal?"



SPECIAL PATENT — Mississippi State Senator Delma Furniss of Rena Lara, at his desk in the Senate chambers in Jackson, holds the patent for his Universal Quick-Reference Bible. (Photo by Tony Martin)

With that thought, Furniss embarked on a multi-year quest to develop and patent a method for publishing universal quick-reference Bibles.

Most church members are familiar with the frustration that comes when a pastor cites a passage of Scripture for his sermon, and then having to fumble searching for that passage. This is compounded when church members use a variety of different translations.

Furniss' quick reference system provides that each segment of Bible text — be it book, chapter, verse, concordance, or glossary — be located on a corresponding num-

bered page.

The page numbering system is universally adaptable to any Bible translation, even versions in other languages.

For example, a pastor might stand before his congregation and ask them to turn to Titus 3:10. With Furniss' system and the quick-reference Bibles in the hands of the congregation, the pastor could cite Titus 3:10 on page 2298 and the reference could be found easily and quickly — even if various members of the congregation had quick-reference Bibles in several versions and languages.

The most unique trait of the design is a prominent page number at the bottom outer corner of each page and ample white space on each page for note-taking.

In 1993, Furniss began researching what would be necessary to patent his innovative method. He went to the library and found self-help materials for applying for a patent.

He soon discovered what an ordeal that would be.

Furniss determined that he would seek a "method patent," which is different than a patent on other inventions.

"I had to put all my ideas in a bound notebook, explaining why I felt my idea was a good one and how it would work," he said.

The book was signed by two witnesses, and sent to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks in Washington, D.C.

Taking that action would protect his idea from infringement for two years until the finished product could be submitted.

In the meantime, Furniss was required to send in periodic progress reports. He also had to research what is termed "prior art," showing evidence that no other inventor had proposed a similar plan.

He submitted all documentation in the fall of 1995, and the patent office rejected his claims outright.

Furniss then rewrote his claims, rebutting the patent office objections one by one, but the amended version was also rejected.

The patent office cited court cases and historical documentation, even using the

ancient Rosetta Stone as a claim that Furniss' proposals weren't original.

Not to be deterred, Furniss contacted the author of the self-help book he'd used as a reference. The author didn't believe Furniss had a case, but he did put Furniss in touch with a patent attorney.

The attorney told him the same thing — he didn't think Furniss could get a patent for his idea.

Furniss didn't give up. He wrote his own appeals brief which would ultimately be submitted to the appeals board at the patent office.

"I'm not a lawyer," said Furniss, who is a retired train conductor, "but I knew what I was talking about."

This time, Furniss was able to provide the examiners with samples of Bibles in several versions, including the King James Version, the Living Bible, and even a Spanish Bible.

"That's what ultimately sold them," he pointed out.

Furniss was assigned a different patent examiner who was not familiar with his claim, which was the final stop before the appeals board.

The new examiner called Furniss and said, "Let's work out a compromise."

In brief, Furniss approached his system as a product claim (reasoning that the patent office saw the Bible as a product), and this time the examiner processed his claim.

Furniss had finally worn them down.

He received his patent on February 16, 1999, and is in the process of sharing his system with several Bible publishers.

"I'm sold on it," he said. "Imagine a church having pew Bibles in several different translations. I believe this could be the biggest innovation in Bible publishing since Gutenberg."

"I'd just hope this would catch on and put more Bibles in people's hands," Furniss said. "I really believe this would be a tool for people to read and study more."

Furniss can be reached at his home in Rena Lara at (662) 624-8687, or during legislative sessions at (601) 359-3221.

Mississippi church helps birth Honduras work

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Few things in life are as gratifying as being present at the birth of a child — and for a church, few things are as gratifying as ushering in the birth of another church.

In April 1999, First Church, Natchez, participated with West Heights Church, Pontotoc, in a medical-dental mission trip to Orocuina, Honduras.

The area had been devastated by Hurricane Mitch. The group set up in a local school.

The Natchez group soon learned that a small group of Honduran nationals were trying to start a church in the Orocuina area.

Martha Garcia, the wife of the pastor of a Baptist church in Cholútaca, was in charge of beginning the mission.

According to Ken Moss, coordinator of the group from Natchez, Garcia gave the group several letters requesting aid for the new work. The mission owned property in Orocuina, and the Natchez group took up an offering on the spot.

Dan Robertson, then pastor of First Church, Natchez, took the letters to the missions committee of the church.

On the recommendation of the committee, the church voted to give assistance in the purchase of materials for construction of the church. Several individuals also contributed to the cause.

Gifts were distributed through the Partnership Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

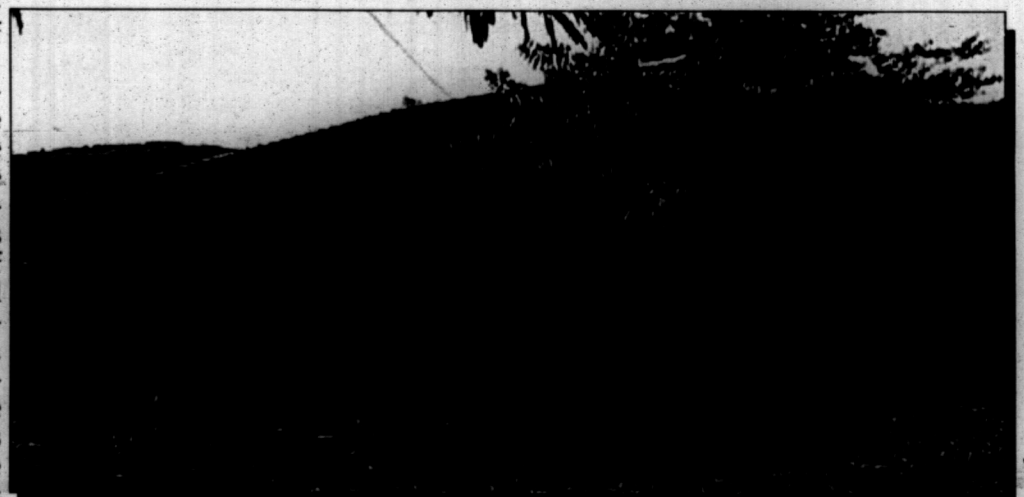
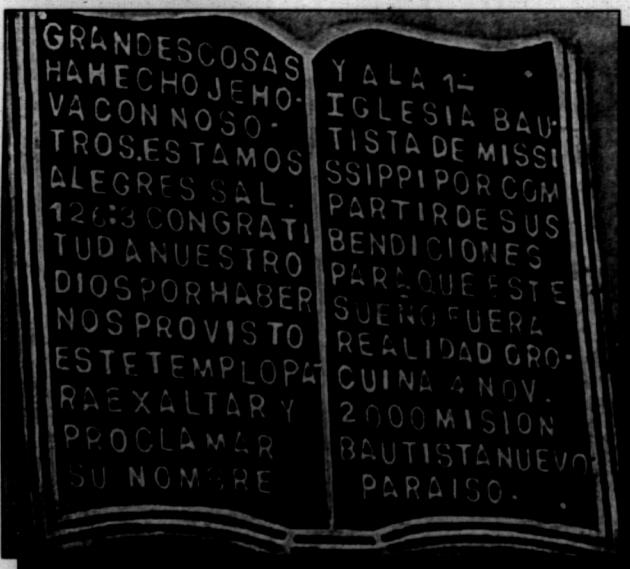
At one point, First Church, Natchez, planned to send a construction team to Orocuina, but the nationals wanted to take on the project themselves. Martha Garcia frequently corresponded with church members during the construction of the "temple," as the Hondurans referred to the building.

By May of 2000, the new congregation was able to move into their facility. The church has grown and flourished.

At the entrance to the building, the church mounted a plaque which translated reads:

The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Ps. 126:3. With gratitude to our God for providing this temple to exalt and proclaim his name and to First Baptist Church of [Natchez] Mississippi for sharing their blessings that our dreams were realized. Orocuina 4 Nov. 2000 New Paradise Baptist Mission.

Plaque at front door of Mision Bautista Nuevo Paraiso, Orocuina, Honduras. (BR special photo)



Mision Bautista Nuevo Paraiso, Orocuina, Honduras. (BR special photo)

Cameron ready to 'express what I believe' |

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (BP) — Kirk Cameron appreciates the popularity the '80s sitcom "Growing Pains" gave him via the role of Mike Seaver.

But, Cameron said, "It's been a far greater honor to play Buck Williams in 'Left Behind' than anything else I have done."

The lead role in the movie "has given me the opportunity to express what I believe in a very special way," Cameron said Jan. 16 in the first of several "Left Behind: 'A Night of Worship' Tour" concert-and-video events preceding the film's Feb. 2 opening in movie theaters nationwide.

The Jan. 16 performance in Franklin, Tenn., attracted nearly 2,000 Left Behind enthusiasts from the Nashville area to meet Cameron, who plays a TV journalist in Left Behind, and his wife, Chelsea Noble, a fellow entertainment figure who also stars in the movie.

The evening also featured several recording artists from the movie's soundtrack:

BOB CARLISLE — Grammy and Dove-award winner Bob Carlisle sings songs from the movie Left Behind during a concert at First Church, Franklin, Tenn.. SHINEmk, and Joy

Williams. First Church, Franklin, also known as "The People's Church," hosted the multimedia event.

Stops are slated Jan. 18 in Birmingham, Ala., at the Cathedral of the Cross; Jan. 22 at Atlanta's First Church; Jan. 23 at Germantown Church in metro Memphis, Tenn.; Jan. 25 in Springdale, Ark., at First Church; Jan. 29 at Houston's Second Church; Jan. 30 in Austin, Texas, at Shoreline Christian Center; and Feb. 1 in San Antonio, Texas, at First Church of Castle Hills.

The movie, which as a video already has sold more than 1 million copies, is based on the "Left Behind" book series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. "The Mark," the eighth in the series, currently is on the nation's best-seller charts, moving overall sales of Left Behind books toward 25 million.

The Left Behind series explores various story lines involving the end times.

The concert-and-video tour was sparked by an Oct. 17 "Left Behind: 'A Night of Worship'" attended by more than 7,000 people at Prestonwood Church in north metro Dallas. Nearly 175 people recorded professions of faith in Christ that night.

George King, general manager of Franklin-based Reunion Records, which was involved in the recording of the soundtrack, told The Tennessean, "We origi-

nally thought the one show would be it, but we realized the film and the books have such drawing power that we wanted to share the message in a unique concert setting featuring highlights from the film, the musicians, and the stars."

Cameron was quoted by The Tennessean as saying that people who have read the New Testament Book of Revelation have "wondered what it all means."

"There's a possibility this stuff is going to happen," Cameron said, "so I hope the movie will make people take a look at how authentic their own faith is and consider the truths of the Bible."

Among quoted endorsers of the Left Behind film, recording artist Rebecca St. James said, "I really think that people will be challenged to think about whether or not they are ready for Jesus to come back." Christian financial expert Larry Burkett, meanwhile, called Left Behind, which was produced in Toronto by Cloud Ten Pictures, "a most compelling film, worthy of your entertainment dollar."

"This film is sensitively written, beautifully directed, acted, and produced," Pat Boone is quoted as saying. "I feel it's certainly one of the very best Christian-produced films ever made."



KIRK AND CHELSEA — Kirk Cameron and his wife Chelsea Noble have a time to share their testimony with more than 1,800 people gathered at First Church, Franklin, Tenn. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

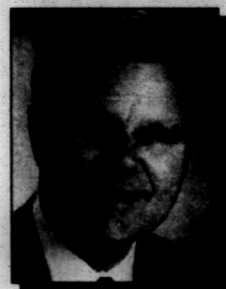
SECRET SIN

Sin is never secret, but sometimes we think it is. I met a man recently who was recovering from heart surgery. He had been through the whole regimen — the surgery, the weight loss, etc. He was on an early morning, multi-mile-walking schedule and he was doing great!

The interesting thing was that this man would walk about a mile from his house, far enough where his wife could not see him and would not know, and he would light up a cigarette. Honestly — he would light up a cigarette and continue his walk, puffing on that weed! Of course, that was probably the number one contributor to his problem in the first place, but he was keeping his smoking habit hidden from his wife!

I suppose hiding his smoking had some benefit. At least he would not have his stress level increased by a confrontation with his wife, but oh, how incredibly dumb! He maintained the secret, all the while killing himself.

Numbers 32:23, says "Be sure your sins will find you out." How revealing! Sin will find you out. It does not say that your wife will find out, though she may, and then again she may not. But, either way, sin will find you. Sin, regardless of how hidden or secret it may be, will find you out.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

As I mentioned, sin is never secret for it is never hidden from God. He sees and he knows. Most people even know this fact. Yet, they are still shocked when sin finds them out.

David was a great king! He had won many military battles by the power of God and had written enough material about the Lord to start a small theological library; yet, he seemed to be shocked when the prophet, after his great sin, stood before him and said, "Thou art the man!"

A pastor friend was visiting in a home where the mother had given specific instructions for her little boy not to eat any of the chocolate pie she had made.

A short time later the kid came strolling from the kitchen into the area where the pastor and the mother were talking. The mother looked at the little boy and began scolding him saying, "I thought I told you not to eat any of that pie!" "I didn't eat any of the pie," the

little boy said as he shook his head from side to side.

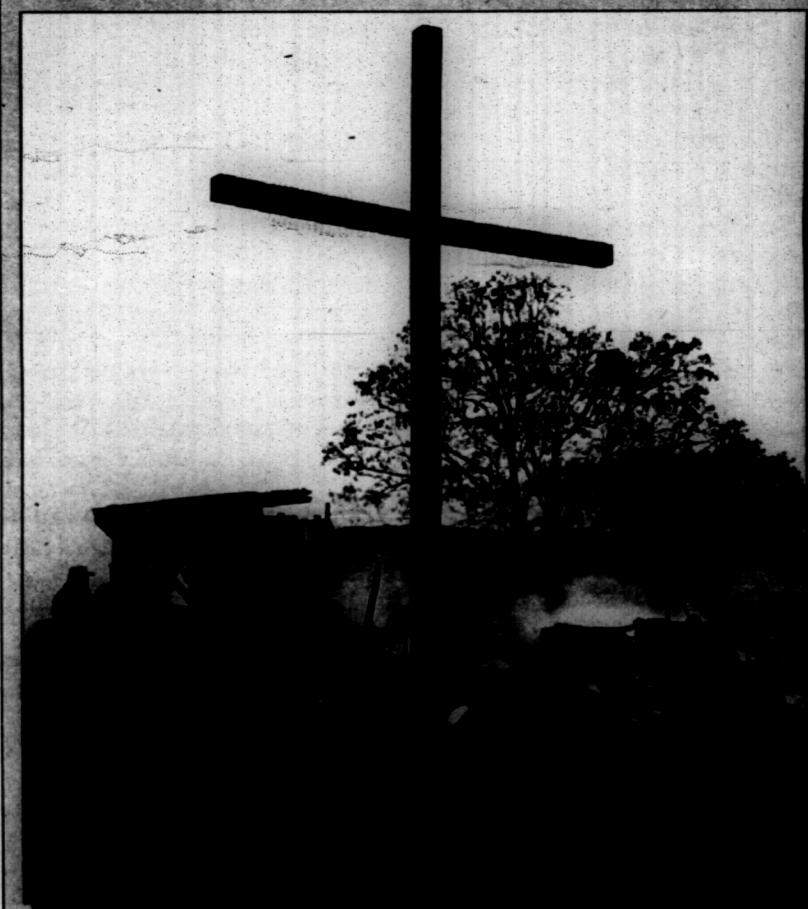
The mother got up, went into the next room and came back with a mirror. She held the mirror up before the little boy's face and there, all across his lips and on both cheeks, was the dark, brown, chocolate evidence! He stood there looking at himself, trying to figure out how he could get out of the mess he was in!

"Be sure your sins will find you out."

From Adam down to you and me — every one of us — thinks that we can handle sin. We think it won't get the best of us. We think we can keep it under control. We think we can even keep it hidden and it won't affect us or those around us. Yet, all the time, it is eating away at our heart — slowly but surely destroying the good things in us and setting up its own incredible reign of pain.

Sin refuses to let you rule and it refuses to stay hidden and secret!

Corinth Church burns



Corinth Church, Kemper Association, burned December 11, 2000. The sanctuary and all educational space was lost in the blaze. According to Robert Higginbotham, bivocational pastor of Corinth, the church burned about 5 p.m. No one was injured. Fire fighters were able to save the church's fellowship hall. Corinth Church has been ministering since the early 1900's. An electrical problem appears to be the cause of the fire. (BR special photo)



Young and Hunter

Mt. Pisgah Church, Sandhill, recently held a note-burning ceremony to celebrate being debt free on its 2,000-square-foot addition and renovation project. The church has built new classrooms, modern nursery, new pastor's study, storage areas, and joined two buildings into one. The total

project cost was more than \$160,000 and the total debt was paid off in less than 24 months. Pictured are Steve Young, chairman of the finance committee for the project, and Sandra Hunter, committee member. Andy Delancy is pastor.

French Camp Church, French Camp, has donated a total of 240 hand made quilts to Crestwood Baptist Center in Jackson since February 1998 for distribution to those in need. Pictured (from left) are Maxine Ward, Pat Ryan, Sally Stewart, Fran Ryan, and Louise McGlothlin.

Members of French Camp Church, French Camp

Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames will be presented in the Family Life Center at First Church, Batesville, on Feb. 11, 12, and 13 at 7 p.m. This dramatic presentation is a joint effort between First Church, Batesville, and an Arizona based drama group. For more information call (662) 563-7656.

Surviving and Thriving in Blended Families with Diane Swain from Little Rock, Ark. will be held at Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, on Feb. 20 from 7-9 p.m. For additional information, call John Henry at (601) 947-4981.

Teams from Beulah Church and Clarke-Venable Church in Decatur, and Mt. Nebo Church in Collinsville, joined with teams from First Church, Slidell, La., and New Orleans Seminary in a mission-evangelism project to the city of Monclova in the Mexican State of Coahuila. The teams were led by Mike Rasberry of Faith-Walk Ministries International. Three hundred sixty-nine people professed faith in Christ in seven Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated missions and churches during the evangelistic effort. This was the fourth crusade to the State of Coahuila for First Church, Slidell, with Faith-Walk Ministries International since July 1999. During that time more than one thousand professions of faith have been recorded and at least three new missions have been established in the areas where they have worked. For more information about Faith-Walk Ministries International, call (504) 290-7572 or e-mail faithwalk@usa.net.



Single-Again Conferences



Swain

Dennis Daniels, First Church, Jackson, on widows; and Beth Watson, Tupelo, on single-parenting. For additional information, call Tim Alexander at (662) 842-6917.

Escatawpa Church will host its annual steak dinner for Volunteer Missions 2001 on Feb. 17 from 5-7:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. The theme for the evening is "Share His Love." All profits from the steak dinner go toward mission trips to Brazil and Ukraine scheduled for the end of May. Twenty-eight people from the church are a part of this year's foreign mission teams. Contact the church office at (228) 475-2938 to order tickets and to get more information. Greg Johnston is pastor.

Romanian-American mission banquet will be held at First Church, Brandon, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Wayne Ball at (601) 825-3365 or the church at (601) 825-6766.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace Seminar will be held at First Church, Jackson, Feb. 23 from 5:30-10 p.m. and again on Feb. 24 from 1-6 p.m. In this seminar Ramsey combines humor, common sense, and compassion into a five-hour presentation. He discusses his down-to-earth, biblically-based approach to finances and how to use these principles to get out of debt, manage money, harmonize marriage and money, save for retirement, build wealth, and handle life as it revolves around finances. The mission of this seminar is to give hope to the financially distressed and the financially secure. For ticket information, call Robin at (601) 949-1941.



Ramsey



Eleven children and youth of Spring Hill Church, North Central Association, presented the musical Behold that Star during the evening service on Dec. 17. Pictured are Jessie and Rebecca Brewer, Katie Buntin, Kayla and Michael Frizzell, Kelsey Kuykendall, Crystal and Patton Paris, Kristine Price, and Casey and Jory Todd. Eugene Walden is pastor.

Dennis E. Conniff dies at age 87

Dennis E. Conniff Jr., 87, died Jan. 19 in Nashville, Tenn. Graveside services were held on Jan. 22 in Bessemer, Ala.



Conniff

Conniff was on the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for nearly 18 years. He was assigned to youth and adult education in the Sunday School department. He also served as church architecture consultant. Conniff previously served as minister of education at Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala.

Survivors include his wife Georgie Collum Conniff, Jackson; children, Dennis Edward Conniff III, Nashville; Charles Edwin Conniff, Lynchburg, Va.; brother, Jack Edwin Conniff, Raleigh, N.C.; grandchildren, Kellee Bryant, Dennis E. Conniff IV, Kristin Conniff, Kaydee Conniff, and Dana Davis. His wife Mildred Jacobs Conniff preceded him in death.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Miller, Burt, and Smith

Auburn Church, Tupelo, recently ordained Terry Miller and Don Smith as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Miller; Bobby Burt, pastor; and Smith.

Auburn Church, Tupelo, recently licensed Terry Ramey to the ministry. Pictured (from left) are Ramey and Bobby Burt, pastor.



Ramey and Burt



Kirk and The Storments

is presently serving as pastor of Sarepta Church, Calhoun Association. Storment is pictured with his wife Janice, and Ray Kirk, pastor.

Lebanon Church, Benton-Tippah Association, ordained Onnie Ralph to the ministry. Ralph has been called to Pleasant Grove Church, Booneville, as pastor. Steve Essary is pastor of Lebanon Church. Pictured (from left) are Ralph and Essary.



Ralph and Essary



Victory Church, Bassfield, ordained James Coulter (left) as deacon. Pictured with Coulter is Hal Bullock, chairman of deacons. Charles Broome is pastor.

Late deliveries reported by subscribers

The Baptist Record has received a number of inquiries from around the state regarding late delivery of the issues published since the first of the year, when new sorting requirements were put into effect by the United States Postal Service (USPS).

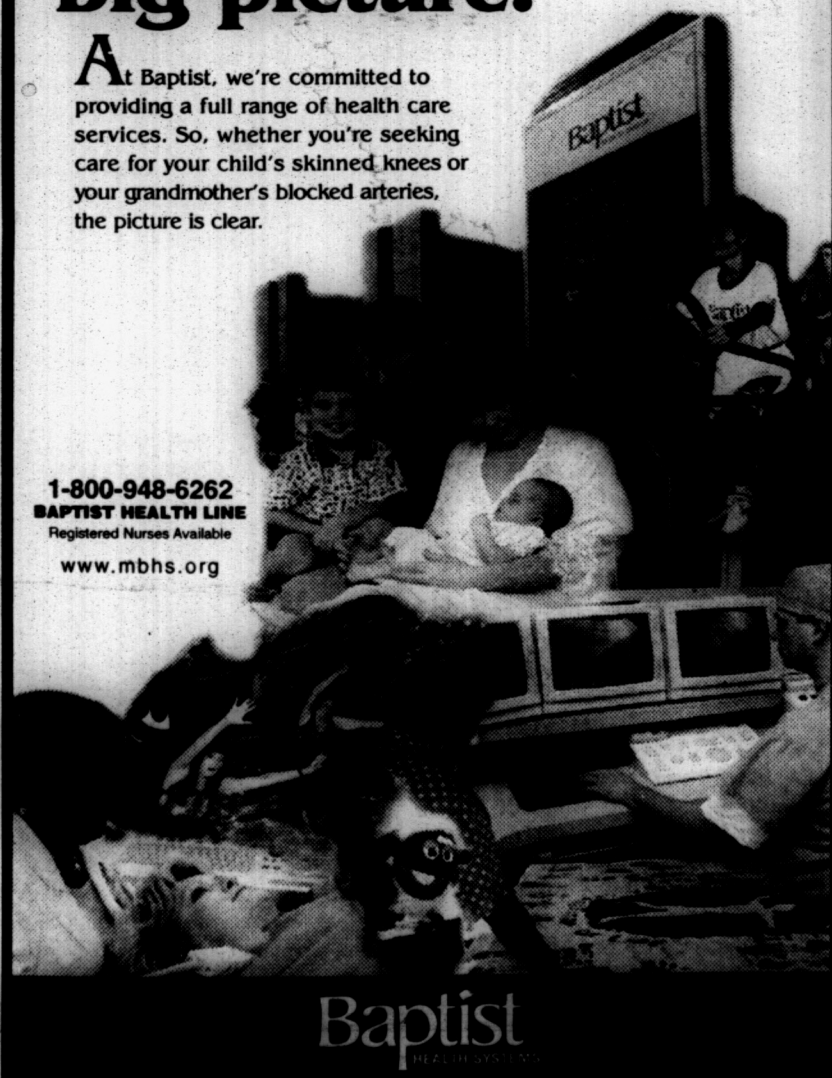
An internal audit indicates that the staff of The Baptist Record and the newspaper's contract printer, Cain Lithographers of Jackson, are meeting deadlines for handing off the newspaper to the postal service for timely delivery on Thursday of each week. USPS has been advised of the problem and asked to correct the inconsistent deliveries.

It is recommended that individual subscribers inform the local postmaster any time The Baptist Record does not arrive in the mail on Thursday. Also, please inform the newspaper at Editor, The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org. The staff of The Baptist Record will continue to work with officials at the USPS sorting center in Jackson, where the newspapers are handed off for delivery each week. Your patience is appreciated while this problem is being addressed.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Revival date

Bala Chitto, Magnolia: Feb. 9-11; Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds; Randall Creel, evangelist; Randall and Brenda Creel, music; Dave Hartson, pastor.

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CHURCH SECRETARY NEEDED. Full-time; good computer skills. Please submit resume to Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212, ATTN: Personnel Committee; or fax (601) 376-4110. Phone (601) 376-4100.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN STORES IN JACKSON is looking for a mature, responsible person for customer service position. Contact Jerry or Grace at (601) 977-9676.

PRAISE FOR WHITE

Editor:

I want to add my thanks and praise to the life of Lester White who, for many years, directed the choir at First Church, Union, as a volunteer. I write not as a fellow choir director or minister of music, but as a choir member and fledgling accompanist.

I was a member of his choir at First Church, Union, and admired his dedication, not just to his task, but to his desire that music for God be done with the best we had to give. I was just beginning to accompany in those days as well as sing in ensembles and he and his wife Melba, who was the church organist, were great examples to me.

They encouraged me to participate in the "Hymn Playing Festivals" now called Keyboard Festivals. They took our youth ensemble to the local choir festival, the association, and then statewide, if we got that far! Gaining encouragement through his ministry I went on to get my degree in piano and was for 19 years the pianist at Broadmoor Church, Madison.

I had just mentioned Lester in my Sunday School class on the previous Sunday as one who had great influence on my life when I heard he had passed away. He was truly an example of one who gave what he had in service to God and was greatly used by him.

Vonda Clower
Madison

SUPPORT MFC

Editor:

One of the most steadfast and persistent defenders of the family and family values in Mississippi is the Mississippi Family Council (MFC) in Jackson, whose president, Forest Thigpen, is a strong and continuing voice on our behalf.

People give heed to Thigpen's written and spoken words when he addresses the needs of children and problems in the education system. His written words have been sought after and frequently published in the media; his spoken words have been applauded during television and radio talk shows.

When he speaks, people listen and act. Bills have been changed in the legislature as a result of his input. In Thigpen's own words, "That's why we are here: to be your eyes, and voice in Jackson... working with policy-makers in state government to promote and defend the family."

You should know that Forest Thigpen's actions speak as loudly as his words. In recent weeks I have seen him frequently in public places, and every time with his family or a member of his family: in a bookstore, shopping in Bridges Park walking and wrestling with his son, at church on Sundays and

Wednesday evenings.

Thigpen uses words to tell us that families are of prime importance. His actions and his lifestyle before the world prove he believes they are! He is the epitome of one who practices what he preaches. He is a Living Epistle.

We should express our gratitude by prayers, encouragement, and other support.

Claude A. Luttrell
Jackson

Editor's Note: The Mississippi Family Council can be contacted at P.O. Box 13514, Jackson, MS 39236. Telephone: (601) 969-1200. E-mail: mail@msfamily.org.

LMCO GOAL REACHED

Clarke Association, through its 29 churches, gave \$53,297.69 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The goal was set at \$50,000. Grady Crowell is missions director for Clarke Association.

Unity Church, Moselle, has doubled the goal set for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The

ladies challenged the men to raise and/or donate the most money. The goal was \$1,000. The total amount raised and given was \$2,000.

Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, set a Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$5,000. The amount received was \$10,114.73. Paul Crowley is pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Millard Fuller, cofounder and president of Habitat for Humanity International, will be the evangelism lecturer at Mississippi College (MC), Feb. 5 and 6. The lecture will be held Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. in the B.C. Rogers Student Center at MC. On Feb. 6, Fuller will speak at the MC Law School Prayer Breakfast from 7-9 a.m. at Galloway Methodist Church. Call (601) 925-7100 for additional information concerning the Prayer Breakfast. Fuller will speak in chapel, in Swor Auditorium, Tuesday at 10:50 a.m. A native of Alabama, Fuller graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama Law School.

Mississippi College (MC) Career Services Center is sponsoring its fifth annual Career Day for employers, graduate and professional programs. Career Day 2001 will be held on Feb. 13 in the A. E. Wood Coliseum from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The theme for Career Day 2001 is "Get a Job, (you

love)." For more information on Career Day 2001, contact the Career Services Center at (601) 925-3901 or e-mail at career-center@mc.edu.

Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union (BSU) will sponsor a concert by Brother's Keeper on Feb. 5. The concert will be held in Modena Lowrey Berry auditorium on campus at 7 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door or reserved for \$5 by contacting the BSU at (662) 685-4711 ext. 137.

The Asbury Foundation of Hattiesburg Inc. has announced a \$398,000 grant to William Carey College to partially fund a new School of Nursing building on the Hattiesburg campus. A portion of the grant also will fund nursing recruitment scholarship. Carey's nursing program is offered on all three of William Carey College's campuses: Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans. The nursing building will include classrooms, faculty

office space, and clinical and technology laboratories for the Hattiesburg program. Carey's Hattiesburg program currently includes about 90 students.

Academic Competition, a Mississippi College (MC) tradition since the early 1980's, continues to showcase the top scholastic talent from both the public and private high schools throughout Mississippi. The televised quiz program is hosted and sponsored by Mississippi College and WDBD - Fox 40. Academic

Competition will air on Saturdays on WDBD-Fox 40, beginning Feb. 10, at 11 a.m. and will continue for 15 weeks. Academic teams are composed of four members each who compete in a quiz format with questions prepared by an independent organization and a time limit for submitting answers. Students who compete in Academic Competition are offered academic scholarships to MC. The amount of the scholarship increases with the number of games won by the student's team.

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WMU leader looking for 'epic' 21st century

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — Embracing the 21st century with excitement and enthusiasm, Women's Missionary Union (WMU) leaders are ready for an "epic" missions organization under the leadership of Executive Director Wanda Lee.

In her first executive director's address to a WMU executive board meeting, Lee, who was elected at last year's January meeting, expressed the dreams of the national staff.

Lee, speaking during the board's Jan. 13-16 sessions at Talladega, Ala., talked about adopting Leonard Sweet's rendition of the emerging church of the 21st century — becoming an epic church — in his latest book, "Postmodern Pilgrims."

Webster defines epic as "extending beyond the usual or ordinary ... heroic." According to Lee, Sweet describes an epic church with four adjectives.

- E for experiential.
- P for participatory.
- I for image driven.
- C for connected.

"Leonard Sweet's challenge to those of us in leadership in the church of the 21st century is to... move from just doing church to being the church in new ways," Lee said, adding, "Not just any kind of church, but an epic church because it speaks to today's member and potential member."

Lee said she believes WMU has realized the importance of this truth. "We have invested a great deal of time and energy

into learning all that we can about the church member and the potential church member of the 21st-century church," she said. "We have redesigned [magazines] and created new models for engaging the church in the missions lifestyle. But research alone does not have all the answers," she noted.

"Leonard Sweet would add... to really reach this audience, the bottom line is that each one of us, the family of faith, will have to develop the kind of passion for Christ felt by the first-century Christians," Lee told the WMU leaders from across the United States.

"We need a renewed passion for Christ and his mission and allow that passion to drive the way we minister and witness in the 21st-century world," Lee said. But Lee said WMU leaders also realize that "if the people in the pew do not realize they are personally responsible for the Great Commission, then the best organization and the most advanced missions awareness is a wasted effort on our part."

"We must become a passionate epic organization at heart if we want to communicate the missions message effectively," Lee said. "We are the leaders of the greatest missionary organization for the support and spread of the gospel that there is."

The way WMU is becoming that epic organization began

with the long-range plan that was adopted in 1999 for the years 2000-2005, Lee said. Those goals include:

- A comprehensive marketing strategy, which is in the development stage.
- An intentional interim service for states without a WMU director, which is in place.
- A way to address issues facing women and children around the world through international partnerships, which is under way.

"There is a concerted effort for ongoing education in magazines and we have begun the process to work on the Web," Lee said. "Project HELP has been our most intentional way to connect to international missionaries and do strategic missions work overseas in partnership with the International Mission Board."

• A plan for research and development and communication of information, which is in the beginning stages. "We are working on a way to communicate electronically everything we are learning," Lee noted.

• Accelerating ethnic leadership development and the creation of resources. One example is the establishment of a Hispanic language advisory group. The Hispanic audience previously was included in the work of the National Language Advisory Group, in place since 1995.

• A new dated design process, which is in the first cycle,

• A center for Christian women's leadership development, which has been established at Samford University in Birmingham. "It is extremely thrilling to see [Carol Ann Vaughn] bring life to this dream," Lee said.

Vaughn, who could not be present at the meeting due to illness, sent word of her excitement about directing the new center. Vaughn became director Aug. 1, 2000.

"It has been a productive first five months of focus groups, research, and orientation meetings for the Christian Women's Leadership Center," Vaughn stated in a letter read by June Whitlow, WMU's senior associate executive director.

Vaughn noted that the center would soon be assembling its board, developing its mission statement and forming work groups.

It will also be seeking approval for an accredited undergraduate, interdisciplinary minor of 24 hours in Christian women's leadership studies.

"The most important needs at this time involve further financial development for student scholarships, an expanded library collection and technology," Vaughn said.

"We are on the right track to use the principles of Jesus Christ to assist women in developing their God-called vision, voice, and vocation," she stated.

Bibliocipher

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Clue: Y = T

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Twelve:Twenty-Eight.

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Natchez, has called William Judson "Bill" Hurt as pastor, effective Jan. 1. He previously served at First Church, Canton. Hurt received

his education at Mississippi College, Southern Seminary, and received the doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary.

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Unity Church, Moselle, has called Valton Douglas as pastor, effective Jan. 14. A native of Sumrall, Douglas has pastored churches in Florida and Mississippi and most recently served in evangelism. He is a graduate of Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, Fla., and William Carey College.

Homecoming

Second Avenue, Laurel: Feb. 11; services begin at 10 a.m., followed by a covered dish luncheon in the Family Life Center; afternoon program in the sanctuary, which will conclude with the opening of the church's cornerstone; for more information, call (601) 428-0416; Ken Regan, pastor.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

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John 4:7-10, 13-18, 21-16

By Sharon Neff

Who would have thought that water would become such a big deal? Go into a grocery or convenience store and you see bottled water everywhere. Some is filtered and "ozonated," some has added minerals, some has added ingredients for improved taste, one brand has caffeine for an extra jolt, some comes from exotic springs, and surprisingly some is just bottled from a city water supply.

Suddenly, water is the beverage that is in style. Go into any restaurant and lots of people will be ordering water, usually with a slice of lemon. After years of sodas, coffee, tea, and sport drinks, water is back in fashion. Could it be that we're

finally realizing that water is really best for us? That when we're thirsty, it's water that our bodies crave to satisfy its needs?

The Samaritan woman in John 4 understood about water. In a time when she couldn't turn on the faucet or go to the store to easily get water, the woman knew that she had to do what was necessary to get water. That involved going to a well, drawing the water, and carrying it back to her house. All of this was required to satisfy her body's craving and need for water.

Yet she did not realize that she had an even greater craving and need until she encountered Jesus. It had probably been in



Neff

the back of her mind for a long time that something was missing in her life. She had certainly filled her life with sensual pleasure, possibly seeking to fill the need in that way. She also had a smattering of religious knowledge, as evidenced by her questioning of Jesus about worship.

As I tell my own Sunday School class often, I am constantly amazed at how much people in the Bible are like people today. We may think we are sophisticated and modern, and we are in some ways, but our attitudes, needs, and actions are so similar to those of people thousands of years ago.

Consider this: adults today feel emptiness in their lives and try to fill it with an activity or a person. They run after worldly things (money, power, and pleasure) to fulfill their deepest longings and sprinkle their lives with a little bit of spiritu-

ality. Now doesn't that sound a lot like the Samaritan woman?

When Jesus first offered the Samaritan woman "living water," she misunderstood and thought it would end her need for the drudgery of going to the well and getting water every day.

If the Samaritan woman lived today, she might have thought it was some kind of new designer bottled water with extra ingredients to keep her young and physically healthy. Jesus led her to see past the physical to the spiritual and recognize her sinfulness and deepest longings.

He helped her understand that she had greater needs and cravings than she had ever realized. Jesus then provided the answer of himself to the problem of her sin and the search for satisfaction and meaning in her life.

We've come to understand that water is the best thing to quench our physical thirst, that

it's what our bodies crave, and we're not shy about telling others about it.

Likewise, we who understand that "living water" is the best thing to quench our spiritual thirst need to share the knowledge with others and not be shy about it. We know about something that everyone needs and that only Jesus gives.

As we encounter people today struggling to find satisfaction and meaning in their lives, let's help them see past the physical to the spiritual root of their problems.

The world offers only physical answers and solutions that are merely temporary and ultimately unsatisfying. We must offer them the living water that he offers to fill their empty lives. The satisfaction of their deepest longings can only be found through Jesus Christ as they allow him to deal with their problem of sinfulness.

Neff is a member of First Church, Greenville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Dallying with destiny

Acts 24:1, 10-16, 22-27

By Lee Yancey

In Acts 23 we see that Paul has once again found himself in dire straits. Arrested by Roman soldiers in Jerusalem, Paul was being held on trumped up charges by the Jewish leaders. These arrests drew crowds and Paul usually found a way to address them and to give a witness for Christ.

When Paul indicated that God had called him to go to the Gentiles, the Jews were incensed. As they were shouting and kicking dust and throwing off their cloaks in disgust, the Roman commander ordered Paul to be flogged and questioned to find out why the Jews were acting so violently.

Finding out that Paul was a Roman citizen fortunately

ended the flogging before it began and Paul was brought before the Sanhedrin the next day. The Sanhedrin was a Jewish council made up of Pharisees and Sadducees. (The Sadducees did not believe in bodily resurrection so they were sad, you see).

Paul claimed he was being accused because he believed in bodily resurrection aligning himself with the Pharisees and thereby splitting the council. A plot to kill Paul was discovered by Paul's nephew and the Roman commander, Claudius Lysias, transferred Paul in the dark of night to Felix, the Roman governor of Judea from A.D. 52-59.

Crucial defense (Acts 24:1, 10-13). Ananias, the high priest



Yancey

from Jerusalem assembled a dream team of lawyers to prosecute Paul before Felix. That the Jewish party traveled sixty miles to testify against Paul indicates their immense hatred for him and for whom he stood.

Tertullus, the lawyer, was a gifted speaker and brought three charges against Paul: he was a troublemaker who stirred up riots among the Jews around the world; he was the head of an unrecognized religious sect that went against Roman Law; and he had tried to desecrate the Temple in Jerusalem.

Paul adeptly responded to each charge stating that in each case the prosecution could not prove the accusations made against him. Believers should defend themselves truthfully and with confidence when their Christian character or ministry is challenged.

Christian stance (Acts 24:14-16). Within these few verses lies

a perfect model for interfaith witnessing. Paul noted that he shared three common beliefs with the Pharisees. They both worshiped the same God, based their faith on the Law and the Prophets, and shared the same hope in God for the resurrection of the dead.

Paul presented a clear testimony about his faith while identifying these beliefs he held in common with his accusers. He clearly affirmed his commitment to "The Way" (Christianity).

Believers can turn adverse circumstances into opportunities for a positive witness, affirming common ground with others whenever possible.

Critical delay (Acts 24:22-27). Felix, who held the same position that Pontius Pilate had held years earlier, was involved with Drusilla, the daughter of Herod Agrippa I. Drusilla was the wife of Azizus, King of Emesa, but Felix had persuaded her to be his mistress.

One day, they were listening to Paul speak about his faith in

Christ Jesus. As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became very uneasy. Immediately, he sent Paul away.

During Paul's two year imprisonment under Felix, he had frequent opportunities to witness to him. However after the two years had passed, when Felix was replaced by Porcius Festus, Felix had not responded positively to Paul's witness.

Many people put off accepting Christ for a variety of reasons. Some are too busy, too young, too old, waiting for the right time etc. Believers should develop answers to the reasons people give for delaying to receive Christ. We must understand that it is our responsibility to present a positive witness and then leave the results to God without feeling guilty if the person fails to receive Christ.

Yancey is consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the editor via e-mail. Articles containing links to web pages or an e-mail address will be accepted via e-mail.



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are acceptable.

Please include a return address and telephone number with all news and photographs.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are acceptable. Digital photos may be submitted as a JPEG file via e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@msbpc.org

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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MISSISSIPPI WMU MISSIONS CELEBRATION

January 26-27 • Country Woods Church, Byram

VOICES OF PRAISE — A special ensemble of retired missionaries performs at the January 26 afternoon session of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union annual missions celebration at Country Woods Church, Byram. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



NEWS FROM THE FRONTIER — Matt Williams, SBC representative to Southeast Asia and Oceania, shares his experiences with conferees during a breakout conference. (Photo by Tomy Martin)

FROM THE FIELD — Retired missionaries Indy (standing, left) and Charles Whitten (standing, right) of Clinton describe their experiences on the mission field during a breakout conference session on the afternoon of January 26 at the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union annual missions celebration at Country Woods Church, Byram. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



CHALLENGE — R.T. Buckley, SBC representative to Central and Southern Asia, shares the challenges of glorifying God and ministering in areas of the world typically closed to ministry. (Photo by Tony Martin)

LEADING IN WORSHIP — Lisa Leavell, of First Church, Jackson, leads the congregation in music during the January 27 morning sessions. (Photo by Tony Martin)

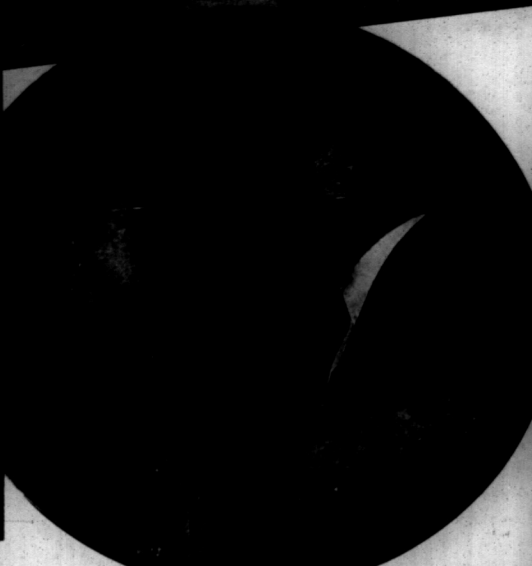
LIFTING THE NAME — The Sanctuary Choir of Country Woods Church, Byram, performs during the January 26 evening session of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union annual missions celebration at the church. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



WELCOME TO MISSISSIPPI — Jane Burns (left), member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, talks with Wanda Lee of Birmingham, executive director-treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), at the January 26 reception in honor of outgoing Mississippi WMU president Rebecca Williams of Gautier. The reception was held after the adjournment of the January 26 evening session of the Mississippi WMU annual missions celebration at Country Woods Church, Byram. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



TELLING THE STORY — Kimandria Futral, wife of Country Woods pastor Rob Futral, shares a moment with her children as she sings "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations." She was later joined by several other children, youth, and adults. (Photo by Tony Martin)



PERSONAL MOMENT — Larry Cox, vice president for public relations and development at the International Mission Board, shares personal remembrances with Rebecca Williams, outgoing president of the Mississippi WMU. (Photo by Tony Martin)

